The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Thursday January 23. to Monday January 27. 1700.

Rome, Jan. 8. *N. S.*

THE Pope has held several Congregations about the present Juncture of Affairs, and some think he may lay hold on this opportunity of making good his Pretension to the Kingdom of *Naples*, of which he hitherto refuses the Investiture, both to the Emperor, and to the King of *Spain*. The *Venetian* Ambassador had a long Audience of the Pope the 4th Instant. 'Tis said, the Pope being informed, that the King of the *Romans* has thoughts of Commanding in Person the Imperial Forces in *Italy*, has writ to dissuade him from it. Cardinal *Fourbin* has taken upon him the Management of the Affairs of the Crown of *France* at this Court, the Cardinal *de Noailles* having at his departure from hence delivered to him all the Publick Papers which he received from Prince *Monaco*, the *French* Ambassador, before his Death. Cardinal *d'Estrees* is gone to *Venice* with some private Commission from the Most Christian King; His departure from hence was somewhat delayed, by a Dispute in a Point of Ceremony which he desired might be adjusted before his arrival there; It is, That the Doge refuses to give the Hand to Cardinals, or to receive them privately, as was practised formerly; and as an Expedient 'tis agreed, that the Cardinal *d'Estrees* shall not have any Audience of the Doge and Senate, but that one of their Body shall be appointed to treat with him. The Pope held lately a Consistory, to admit divers new Bishops, and those who were nominated by the Emperor were (in the absence of Cardinal *Medicis*, Protector of the Affairs of the Empire and *Spain*) proposed by Cardinal *Grimani*, and not by Cardinal *Giudice* a *Spaniard*, as formerly. The Pope's Treasurer not being able to agree with the Foreign Ministers, concerning their Privilege of being free from the Customs which all other Persons pay for the Goods they bring into this City, the Pope has appointed a Congregation, composed of the Cardinal *Chamberlain*, and several other Prelates, to adjust this Matter. The Count *de San Martino* a *Piemontois*, is, at the Recommendation of Cardinal *Ottoboni*, made Captain of the Pope's Guard of *Switzers*.

Florence, Jan. 11. Cardinal *Lamberg* arrived here the 9th Instant from *Rome*, and having had several Conferences with the Great Duke about the Affair of *Spain*, he departed this morning for *Venice*, where he is in like manner to represent several Matters to the Republick, pursuant to his Instructions from the Emperor. And the Cardinal *d'Estrees* is every day expected here from *Rome*, to negociate in favour of *France*. The Great Prince and Princess are gone to pass the Carnaval at *Leghorne*.

Milan, January 12. The Marquis *de Los Balbaces* arrived here the last week from *Madrid*, being sent by the Regents of *Spain* to the Prince of *Vaudemont*, with whom he has had several Conferences. The Count *de Tesse*, who is to command the *French* Troops that are coming hither, has brought with him Bills of Exchange for a considerable Sum of Money for the Service of these Forces, part whereof, to wit, 16 Battalions of Foot, are expected here in few days from the Territories of *Genoua*, whither they came by Sea from *Antibes*; and Commissioners are sent to regulate their March, and provide Subsistence for them; 'tis said, they are to be quartered in the Neighbourhood of *Cremona*, and the *Neapolitan* Horse in the Service of this State are posted in several Bodies along the *Adda*, to secure the Fords of that River.

Venice, Jan. 14. The Duke of *Mantua* continues in this City, to partake of the Diversions of the *Carnaval*. The Sieur *Hautefrede*, Envoy from *France* to his Highness, is returned hither from the Courts of *Milan*, *Modena*, and *Parma*, where he has been upon some private Negociation. Signior *Casado*, Envoy from *Spain* to the Duke of *Mantua*, is gone from hence to *Milan*. The Cardinal *d'Estrees* is shortly expected here from *Rome*. Captain-General *Cornaro* is on his return hither from the *Morea*, having left the Command of the *Venetian* Forces in that Province with the Proveditore-General *Dolfino*. Several Regiments of Foot are expected from those Parts, which are to be quartered on the Frontiers of this State towards *Tirol*. The 5 Companies of *Italian* Foot, which lately came from *Dalmatia*, are march'd to *Verona*; and 5 Companies more are shortly expected from thence. The last Advices from *Dalmatia* say, the Regulating of the Limits between the *Venetian* and *Turkish* Territories is almost finished; That a large *Lazaretto* has been lately built at *Spalatro* for the conveniency of their Trade, and that General *Mocenigo*, who has the chief Command of the *Venetian* Forces in that Country, was going from thence to *Zara*.

Warsaw, Jan. 13. The Prince of *Sapieha*, Great General of *Lithuania*, and the Great Treasurer his Brother, have had Audience of the King of *Poland*, and represented to him the late Proceedings of the Sieur *Oginsky* and his Followers, who in a very cruel manner cut in pieces one of the Great General's Sons, and several of his Friends, after Quarter was given them, and have ruined and plundered all their Houses and Estates; The King was much moved by their Complaints, and told them, He had already given Directions for the Senate to meet, in order to consider of the Means to restore them to the Possession of their Dignities and Estates, and to put an end to the Troubles in *Lithuania*. In the mean time we hear, that the *Lithuanian* Nobility of *Oginsky*'s Party are very much divided among themselves. Letters from *Russland* say, the Forces of the Crown quartered in those Parts begin to be very uneasie for

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